

Press Release
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**U.S. government donates 24 dump trucks
to improve roads in Yungas**

The U.S. government, through its Agency for International Development (USAID), donated 24 dump trucks, valued at approximately US\$ 2 million that will be used to improve and provide maintenance to 400 Km (250 miles) of secondary roads in the region of Yungas.

These 24 dump trucks are the first components of a larger lot of machinery that also includes a stake truck, a flatbed truck for machinery transport, two front loaders, three motor graders, a Caterpillar tractor, two vans, five pick up trucks and a tanker truck. The whole donation, worth US\$ 3.4 million, is being disbursed by USAID as part of its cooperation program to promote Alternative Development.

During the presentation ceremony, U.S. Ambassador David Greenlee said that this effort was part of “a renewed project to build a better Yungas, a Yungas of the future.” He pointed out that from 2001 to 2003, in Yungas, 250 km of roads had been improved and 13 bridges had been built. He also said that this year there would be a greater effort to complete the improvement of 400 km of secondary roads, the stone paving of the road between Sapecho and Palos Blancos and the construction of 12 more bridges.

Ambassador Greenlee remarked that the improvement and construction of new roads would help Yungas’ agricultural producers transport their products to the markets, improve safety conditions for children attending their schools, and allow prompt access in case of an emergency.

Bolivian Minister of Agriculture Diego Montenegro expressed Bolivia’s thankfulness for this donation and highlighted the importance of U.S. support to the Alternative Development effort in Yungas.